

may not touch the hand of a man until she is unwell again.¹ In Madagas
car no one who had been at a funeral might enter the palace, or approach
the sovereign, for a month, and no corpse might be buried in the capita
city. The mourners washed their dresses, or dipped a portion of them ii
running water, as a ritual purification.² The Tshi peoples of West Afric;
cause women to retire, at the periodj to huts prepared for the purpose ii
the bush, because they are at that time offensive to the deities.³ The Ewe
speaking peoples think a mother and baby unclean for forty days afte:
childbirth.⁴ The Bechuanas, when they have touched a corpse, dug a grave
or are near relatives of a deceased person, — the ritual uncleanneess being thui
extended to a wider circle of those in any way concerned in a burial, — purif]
themselves by prescribed ritualistic washings, put on new garments anc
cut their hair, or purify themselves with the smoke of a fire into which magic-working materials have been cast. On returning from battle the]
ceremonially wash themselves and their weapons.⁵ The Karoks of Cali
fornia think that if a menstruating woman approaches any medicine whicl
is about to be given to a sick man she will cause his death.⁶ The Tamil*
think that saliva renders ritually unclean whatever it touches. Therefore
in drinking, they pour the liquid down the throat without touching the cuj
to the lips.⁷ The Romans held that nothing else had such marvelous efficac}
as, or more deadly qualities than, the menstrual flow.⁸ Here we find thai
which is, in one view, evil and contemptible, regarded, in another view, as

powerful and worthy of respect. The Arabs thought that " a great variety of natural powers " attached themselves to a woman during the period.⁵ The gum of the acacia was thought to be a clot of menstrual blood. Therefore it was an amulet. The tree is a woman.¹⁰ At the great feast of the dead amongst the Eskimo on Bering Straits the feast makers make wip- ing motions, stamp, and slap the thighs, in order to " cast off all unclean- ness that might be offensive to the shades," and thus to render their sacrifices acceptable.¹¹ The spirits amongst the Kwakiutl, Chinooks, and their neigh- bors kill an unclean man. These people have fastings and washings for purification.¹²

561. Uncleaness in higher religions. In the higher religions the same notions of ritual cleanness were retained and developed. Pious Zoroas- trians could not travel by sea without great inconvenience, because they could not help defiling the natural element water, which they were forbidden to do.¹³ They were forbidden to blow a fire with the breath, lest they should

¹ *Glo&us*, LXXXI, 337. 7

Gehring, *Sud-Indien*, 96.

² Sibree, *Great Afr. Island*, 290.

⁸ Pliny, *Hist. Nat.*, VII, 64.

⁸ Ellis, *Tshi-speaking Peoples*, 94.

⁹ W. R. Smith, *Relig. of the Semites*, 448.

* Ellis, *Ewe-speaking Peoples* ^ 153.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 133.

⁵ Fritsch, *Eingeb. Siid-Afr.*, 201.

" *Bur. Eth.*, XVIII, Part I, 371.

⁵ Powers, *Calif. Indians*, 31. ^ u. *S. Nat. Mus.*, 1895, 393.

¹³ Darmsteter, *Zend-Avesta?* I, xxxiv.